

From: Ned Wolpert
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 4:36pm
Subject: Comments about the antitrust case against Microsoft

Folks-

I saw that one could mail here comments about the antitrust settlement. Here are mine. I'm both a consumer of electronic goods, and a programmer.

The anti-trust settlement that was presented to the judge did not go far enough. Microsoft needs not just a watchdog around them, they need clear rules (without exceptions or time limits) to limit their ability to for anti-competitive marketing. This includes:

- Allow computer mfg the ability to put multiple OS on the computers they make, with NO penalties from MS. (Ever)
- Allow computer mfg to customize a MS-Windows installed PC any way they want, with NO penalties from MS. (Ever)

These are the two most important items that Microsoft should never challenge. The reason is simple: Microsoft only wants Microsoft tools on their systems. Computer mfg are more likely to listen to the buying public on what they want. MS isn't. So, if a computer mfg wants to put a dual-boot Windows/Linux with Opera for the web browser together, MS should not be able to dictate otherwise. No financial penalties should be levied by MS to the computer mfg.

Far too many times has MS abused its position against other companies. (Stacker is one case that pops to mind, but I'm sure you folks have your list) As a developer, I'm tired of MS bullying people around their platform. As a consumer, I'm tired of not having choice in the market. Regardless of the lies that MS says, they do not innovate. They do provide a service, but its not innovation. They take other ideas and re-work them, extending them with proprietary API's so no one else can hook into their service. (Such as Kerbase for security. They got all the benefits from the free software, but them made enough (1) small changes so that other kerbase systems were incompatible with their NT servers.) They did that with IMAP (MAPI), SMTP, SNMP, etc. They tried to do that with Java. (C# was the result of failing at taking over Java) They have caused much in the software world to not progress. Yet they continue to market their innovative ability.

DOJ, please, you've got to help. MS abuses their position constantly. The settlement needs to be on the side of the consumer, one that can react quickly to when MS messes up. Help the other companies in being able to deploy their software, rather than having MS have a lock on the major computer mfgs.

Thank you.

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Virtually, |
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"Must you shout too?"

-Dante

"Who watches the watchmen?"

-Juvenal, 120 AD

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